

STATE OF TEXAS :
COUNTIES OF POTTER :
AND RANDALL :

On this the 8th day of November 2011, the Parks and Recreation Commission of Amarillo, Texas convened at 1:30 PM in regular session in Room 306, City Hall at 509 E. 7th Avenue, with the following members present:

ATTENDANCE					
	PRESENT TODAY	NO. REGULAR MEETINGS HELD SINCE APPOINTMENT	NO. REGULAR MEETINGS ATTENDED SINCE APPOINTMENT	SPECIAL MEETINGS HELD	SPECIAL MEETINGS ATTENDED
Mr. Hal Leedy	No	43	29	0	0
Mr. Cameron Monroe	Yes	33	26	0	0
Mr. Clint Norton	Yes	24	21	0	0
Ms. Joyce Cunningham	Yes	43	41	0	0
Ms. Jackie Payne	Yes	43	34	0	0
Mr. Joe Michael	Yes	2	2	0	0
Ms. Renee McCown	Yes	2	1	0	0

and the following staff members:

Mr. Larry Offerdahl	Director of Parks & Recreation
Mr. Rod Tweet	Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation
Mr. Clint Stoddard	Park Superintendent
Ms. Sherylene Morris	Recording Secretary

There being a quorum established, the meeting was called to order by Chairman elect, Mr. Cameron Monroe, and the following business was conducted.

ITEM 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 11, 2011 MEETING

Ms. Jackie Payne made a MOTION to approve the October 11, 2011 minutes as amended. Ms. Joyce Cunningham seconded the MOTION. MOTION passed by a vote of 6-0.

ITEM 2. MONTHLY REPORTS

Planning stages for a new Community Development Project at Hamlet Park will include a splashpad, trail walkway security lighting and a playground.

A Phase II expansion at Rick Klein Sports Complex will include the construction of four (4) new soccer fields, parking area and a restroom.

Plans and specifications for installing a new well at Comanche Trail Golf Complex is underway and will be completed mid December.

Golf revenues at Comanche Trail Golf Complex were up \$46,508.01 in October compared to last year in October at \$35,014.97. Revenues for Ross Rogers for the month of October were down \$64,435.76 as compared to last year in October at \$66,286.38 due to the renovation of the Old Course.

Swimming pool revenues were up 16% over last year due to very limited number of days the pools were closed for rain.

Clint Stoddard stated that there were 51 tree removals in our Parks inventory. Park crews began the installation of an irrigation system at Benton Park to be finished by the end of the month. The next irrigation installation will be at Oakdale Park.

A certified playground installer will be hired to install the new playground at Hamlet Park. This certified playground installer will help the city in liability costs since they are trained in ADA guidelines, consumer safety products guidelines and playground installations.

Boo at the Zoo was held on October 28th & 29th, 2011 and was very successful. The attendance for both nights was approximately 4000 to 4500 visitors. The revenue for this event was \$17,535.00. Total zoo revenue for the month of October was \$25,696.37 compared to last year in October at \$19,449.29.

ITEM 3. INTRODUCTION OF NEW PARK COMMISSIONER

Renee McCown was introduced as one of our Park Commissioners.

ITEM 4. REVIEW OF OPEN MEETING ACT

Assistant City Attorney, Courtney Morris, provided an orientation concerning the Open Meetings Act. She stated that it is a requirement for any board member to go to the Attorney Generals website and complete an Open Meetings Act Training course and receive a certificate upon completion. She also stated that a violation of an Open Meetings Act is punishable as a criminal offence which is punishable up to six (6) months in jail and a \$500 fine.

There are six (6) key concepts of Texas Open Meetings Law

1. Meeting: A meeting occurs anytime or anywhere there is a quorum together and discusses city business or received information from another party about city business.
2. Notice: A notice must be posted at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance for a lawful meeting advising the public of the date, time, place and agenda topics to be discussed.
3. Agenda: The board must discuss only the topics stated on the posted notice/agenda.
4. Votes or Final Decisions: Votes or final decisions must always be made in a properly noticed and convened public meeting, never in a work shop, closed session, coffee shop, etc.
5. Executive (closed) Session: The law strongly encourages public meetings. However there can be exceptions such as: individual personnel matters, pending real estate transaction, economic development negotiations, security measures, litigation, or to obtain legal advice from the organization's attorney. To be a lawful closed session: 1) the specific reason for the session must be publicly announced: 2) all non-essential persons must be excluded: 3) the discussion during the session must be solely about the publicly announced reason for the session; and 4) there can never be a vote or decision in a closed session. Either a tape recording or written minutes must be made of the closed session which is sealed in a marked envelope and retained for 2 years. This is not public information and needs a court order to be opened.
6. Recording/Minutes: Every open meeting must be tape recorded and/or detailed written minutes produced that reflects each topic, deliberation, vote or decision.

Courtney then warned Park Commissioners to be careful with email, be careful with texting, don't text each other during an open meeting, and be careful when speaking out in public.

ITEM 5. SUMMARY REPORT ON THE 2011 RECREATION, AQUATICS AND TENNIS PROGRAM PARTICIPATIONS

Pam Cognasi, Recreation Supervisor, reported on the 2011 summer participation numbers for the recreation program, aquatics and tennis programs. There are 17 total recreation program sites in the parks and 3 gym program sites held AISD Schools that are free to the children, ages 5 - 18. The recreation programs in the parks are open Monday through Friday, 10:00 or 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM. This program provides the free summer lunch program with grant aid from the City of Amarillo Community Development and the AISD school system. The gyms are open Monday – Friday, 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM with special programs on different nights to include: Potter County Sheriff's Department, Amarillo Fire Department, Amarillo Police Department and sports and arts and crafts specialists. Free camps offered in the parks include: tennis camp, basketball camp, baseball camp and volleyball camp. These camps are held June 15th through July 30th and are four (4) days long. All youth, ages 5 – 16 are welcome to participate and camps are limited.

The Amarillo National Tennis Center has a total of seventeen (17) courts with fourteen (14) lighted outdoor courts and three (3) indoor courts. Total annual attendance for FY 2010 -11 was 32,859. One of the accomplishments for the tennis center is to improve permit sales. The main challenge is not to be able to register online yet. Other challenges include maintaining the wind screens with the constant

high winds and also continuing partnership with AATA.

Swimming Pool revenue had record breaking totals this year due to warmer summer temperatures and no closings due to inclement weather and special events. Revenue totals for the 2011 summer season was \$227,171.31. Total rescues this year were up 92 compared to last year's at 79. The pools received the Silver Ellis Award for the 2011 summer season. These awards range from Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze. Partnerships increased this year by partnering with APD, swim teams and even the bomb squad.

Marketing items include the Marketing Plan and the Park Guide.

ITEM 6. SUMMARY REPORT ON 2011 ADULT ATHLETICS PROGRAMS

The Athletic Department offers adult softball, volleyball and basketball leagues. Each year these programs increase in participation numbers which generates high revenues for the Athletic Department which is self sufficient. The Athletic Department also helps host several softball tournaments each season which helps bring in large revenue dollars. The biggest special event held each year is the Mayor's Half Marathon. The event is held each year in September at Medical Center Park. There are three races which include: 2 mile, 5 mile and the 13.1 mile. Gary Jennings from the Houston area approached Athletics Administration in order to start a senior softball league. Six teams were registered this year. Adult dodge ball will be added to Athletics for the 2012 year. Athletics also rents ball fields to sports organizations such as the Amarillo Soccer Association, West Texas Youth Baseball, YMCA, Spanish Soccer League, High Plains Fastpitch and Kid's Inc. An Athletic Field Policy is enforced when fields are being utilized by these sports organizations.

ITEM 7. UPDATE ON PROPOSED ZOO EDUCATION CENTER PROJECT

Plans & Specifications have been finalized by the project architects, Dekker/Perich/Sabatini.

ITEM 8. PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION COMMENTS

Citizen Comments:

Sandy Bryant of 3419 Thornton asked if Thompson Park was the only place that had Frisbee golf and how much was it being used. Rod Tweet explained that Thompson Park is currently the only Frisbee golf facility that the city has 18 holes. The Frisbee Golf Association holds several Frisbee golf tournaments at the park.

She also asked about having cycling events as compared to the Mayor's Half Marathon. Larry Offerdahl explained that several years ago the City initiated the Old Tascosa Classic which the city hosted for two years but was phased out due to lack of participation by the cycling clubs.

Lisa Nash of 3418 Clearwell asked about having an equestrian event. Jackie Payne explained the concern about the liability of having such an event in the city but suggested contacting the American Quarter Horse, Range Riders, or West Texas A&M which has a large facility to host such an event.

She also asked about having Triathlon events. Pam Cognasi explained that there is a group who puts on triathlons at Southwest Pool.

Larry mentioned that the Parks & Recreation Department was having their annual Employee Awards Banquet held on December 13th and invited all Park Commissioners to attend.

Ms. Jackie Payne made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Clint Norton seconded the MOTION. There being no further discussion, Mr. Cameron Monroe adjourned the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 3:29 PM.

Larry Offerdahl,
Director of Parks and Recreation